



HIKING – FOREST SERVICE – ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NATIONAL FOREST – San Juan RANGER DISTRICT - Columbine

Updated: February, 2003



COLORADO TRAIL – Graysill Lake to Kennebec Pass

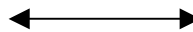
Length: 31 miles (50 km.)

Recommended Season

Use: Moderate

Refer to Highline Trail

Spring Summer Fall Winter



Difficulty: More difficult

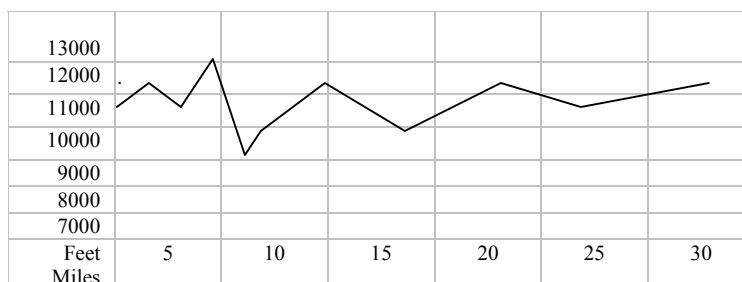
USGS Map (s): Hermosa Peak, ElkCreek,
Orphan Butte and La Plata

Starting Elevation: 11,120'

Graysill Lake (Forest Road #571)

Ending Elevation: 11,600'

Kennebec Pass (Forest Road #571)



Recommended Season: Summer/Fall

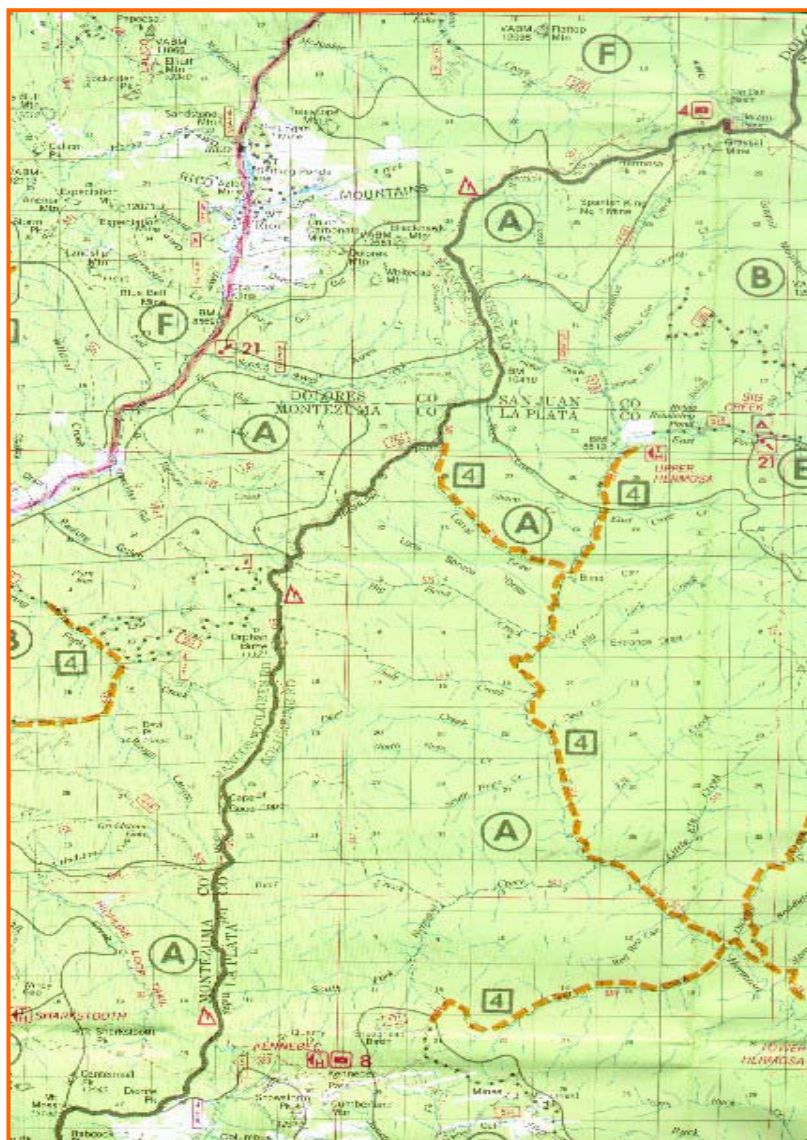
Other access: The Colorado Trail can be reached from the Dolores Ranger District of the San Juan NF.

Access # 1: (Graysill Lake) Go 28 miles north of Durango on US 550 and turn west at Purgatory Ski Area onto FDR 578 toward Hermosa Park. The road fords Hermosa Creek about 8 miles from US 550. Continue for 7 miles to get to Graysill Lake. The trail is on the east side of the lake. 4WD is suggested on the last 7 miles of this road.

Access # 2: (Hotel Draw) Follow above directions. One mile past the ford, take the left fork onto FDR 550 off FDR 578. Follow FDR 550 about 7 miles. Trail is signed on roadway. 4WD suggested last 8 miles.

Access #3 : (Kennebec Pass) About 11 miles west of Durango on US 160, turn north on FDR 571. The trailhead is about 14 miles from US 160. The last few miles are unmaintained 4WD road.

Attractions & Considerations: From Graysill Lake to Hotel Draw, the trail crosses Blackhawk Pass, where the views are spectacular and the hike follows the dividing ridge between the Hermosa and Dolores drainages. Note: Water is limited, and watch for bad weather on the ridge. The trail may be obscure in some places due to intersections with FDR 435, until it starts onto the Indian Ridge Trail, which is easier to follow.



Scan of the San Juan National Forest Map

Forest Service Maps and other publications available at the Public Lands Center in the Durango Tech Center, ½ mile west of Durango off of Highway 160 or by calling 970-247-4874.

www.sjma.org